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Blame for All?

Initial comment of the chief congressional investigator after two days of hearings on the Cuban invasion fiasco offers opinion there was a "collective responsibility."

In shorter words, that seems to say there is blame for all involved or responsible.

There may be more hearings. Certainly military leaders should have their chance to give their version of what happened, and why. This was in the last, tragic phase a military venture, although the Central Intelligence Agency (our spy arm) seems to have carried the ball most of the way.

CIA, of course, was the first target of criticism. It still remains an obvious one since that agency should have had information that would have prevented sending a comparative handful of half-armed volunteers against Czech tanks and airplanes and Communist-trained Cuban regulars.

Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that has held the Cuban hearings, explained by "collective responsibility" he meant the White House, the Defense Department and the State Department as well as the CIA.

One wonders what happened to reports from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, if any. When the State Department under the Eisenhower Administration decided to take a chance on recognizing Castro, it was common knowledge in

Washington that the FBI had warned the ineffable Fidel "ran" with Communies and if he wasn't one, his close advisers were active supporters of the Soviet program.

Was the FBI by-passed again by the theorists of State and the Presidential brain trust? Was its information received and discarded, because it disagreed with the hopes of inexperienced men now in high places in this nation?

We suggest Sen. Fulbright or some of his committeemen sit down with J. Edgar Hoover and find out what he knows about the background of the recent events in Cuba. There is some suspicion the invading force had been infiltrated by Castro agents and they may have rushed the abortive effort at liberation to kill it off before it was strong enough to succeed.

Why didn't our top leaders know of such a situation, if it existed? After all, the President and the Secretary of State could have halted the attack by a word. Where did their information go sour? A verdict of "collective responsibility" is not good enough. Sen. Fulbright and Gen. Taylor, heading the Presidential probe, must do better than this.

Perhaps, though, the Cuban flop—so serious because of its surface, if mistaken, indication the United States is unable to defend itself or its friends—must go down in history with another unsolved mystery. That is the question of where a radar detection of the Japanese fleet about to assault Pearl Harbor in 1941 got lost in channels.